

## Kumar Mangalam Birla in shortlist for IIM-Ahmedabad Chairman's post

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MUMBAI: A search committee has shortlisted [Kumar Mangalam Birla](#), chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, for the post of chairman of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, top officials familiar with the matter told ET.

The panel also recommended HDFC Chairman [Deepak Parekh](#) and Infosys Chairman [R Seshasayee](#), whose names were suggested by a previous search committee and rejected by the human resource development ministry, for the position. The names have been forwarded to the ministry for approval, a top official said.

The post at the country's premier B-school fell vacant in January, when L&T Chairman AM Naik stepped down. The undue delay in appointing a successor had led to concerns in some quarters. In March, the institute had named Cadila Healthcare Chairman Pankaj Patel as interim chairman.

ET reported in June that the ministry wanted the search committee to include its "preferred" candidate, the head of a leading conglomerate, in the list of contenders for the post. While ministry officials offered no comment, an official aware of the development alleged that the post seems to have been promised by the government to the industrialist whose name was among the list of candidates discussed earlier, ET had reported. IIM-A Director Ashish Nanda was unavailable for comment.

In August, IIM-A set up a new search committee comprising former Nasscom president Kiran Karnik, Arvind Ltd. Chairman Sanjay Lalbhai and PepsiCo India Chairman D Shivakumar, highly placed officials told ET. At the end of May, the ministry rejected the names of Parekh, Seshasayee and Hero MotoCorp joint managing director Sunil Kant Munjal put forth by the previous search committee, which included Naik, Lalbhai, Shivakumar and Patel.